

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. (original) An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a nozzle assembly including an intake opening;
a handle assembly connected to said nozzle assembly;
a suction generator carried on one of said nozzle assembly and said handle assembly;
a dirt collection vessel carried on one of said nozzle assembly and said handle assembly; and
a flexible, electrified stretch hose carried on one of said nozzle assembly and said handle assembly.
2. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1 further including an electrified cleaning wand wherein said electrified cleaning wand and said cooperating electrified stretch hose both include at least two insulated electrical conductors.
3. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 2, wherein said stretch hose includes a reinforcing wire and a collapsible wall.
4. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said electrified stretch hose includes three insulated electrical conductors.
5. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 2, further including a cleaning attachment and a first connector securing said cleaning attachment to said wand.
6. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein said cleaning attachment includes an electrical motor that receives electrical power through said two insulated electrical conductors in said wand and said stretch hose.

7. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein said cleaning attachment includes a rotary agitator, said rotary agitator being driven by said electrical motor.

8. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein said cleaning attachment includes a light source that receives electrical power through said two insulated electrical conductors in said wand and said stretch hose.

9. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein said cleaning attachment includes a booster fan, said booster fan being driven by said electrical motor.

10. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein said cleaning attachment includes a light source that receives electrical power through said two insulated electrical conductors in said wand and said stretch hose.

11. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 5, further including a second connector securing said wand to said stretch hose.

12. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein said wand includes multiple sections.

13. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 12, wherein said multiple sections of said wand are telescoping.

14. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, further including at least one rotary agitator carried on said nozzle assembly in said intake opening.

15. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said dirt collection vessel is a dirt filter bag.

16. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said dirt collection vessel is a dirt cup.

17. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 16, wherein said dirt cup is substantially cylindrical in shape and includes a tangentially directed inlet opening.

18. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 6, further including a control switch for selectively activating and deactivating said electrical motor on said cleaning attachment.

19. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 18, wherein said switch is carried on one of said wand, said stretch hose and said cleaning attachment.

20. (currently amended) A method of increasing the cleaning versatility and performance of an upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:

providing the upright vacuum cleaner with a handle assembly pivotally connected to a nozzle assembly;

providing a suction generator on one of said handle assembly and said nozzle assembly; and

equipping ~~an~~the upright vacuum cleaner with a flexible stretch hose and a powered cleaning attachment tool that may be selectively secured to said flexible stretch hose and used for certain cleaning applications.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 further including equipping said upright vacuum cleaner with a wand where both said flexible stretch hose and said wand include electrical conductors for powering said powered cleaning attachment.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, further including equipping said powered cleaning attachment with a rotary agitator and cooperating rotary agitator drive motor.

23. (original) The method of claim 21, further including equipping said powered cleaning attachment with a light source.

24. (currently amended) An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a housing including a handle assembly pivotally connected to a nozzle assembly;
a suction generator carried on said housing;
a dirt collector carried on said housing; and
a flexible, electrified hose carried on said housing.

25. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 24 further including a cleaning attachment having an electrical component powered through said flexible, electrified hose.